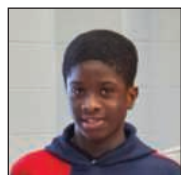




National pageant competitor, p.6



Laptops for Greenbelt Middle, p.7

Greenbelt Ceramic Artists Featured in D.C. Juried Exhibit

by Anna Bedford-Dillow



PHOTO BY CHRIS CORSON

In the Spirit of Community: Ceramics in Greenbelt, MD will be exhibited through January 24.

The works of 33 participants in the Greenbelt Recreation Department's Ceramics Program will be shown at the Studio Gallery in Washington, D.C., through January 24. The juried outreach exhibit, "In the Spirit of Community: Ceramics in Greenbelt, MD" includes 43 pieces - wheel-made, hand-built, tile, mosaic, functional and sculptural - and calls atten-

tion to the city's founding ethos of a commitment to community.

Greenbelter and current artist in residence, sculptor Christopher Corson, who also sits on the Studio Gallery Board, pitched the idea for the show in late 2024. The gallery, which is the longest running artist-owned gallery in

See **ARTISTS**, page 12

Loss of Library Hinders Research, Say Employees; Isaacman Says Not

by Anna Bedford-Dillow

Goddard Space Flight Center (GSFC) was home to NASA's largest research library. However, its operations were paused on December 9 for a 60-day review and on January 2 the agency announced it would close the library. Officials' statements claim nothing of importance will be lost and point to digital resources but NASA employees say the loss could be profound. Meanwhile Goddard Engineers, Scientists and Technicians Association (GES-TA), the employee union which had an agreement specifically ensuring the maintenance of the Goddard library, was stripped of recognition by President Trump's Executive Order (EO 14343) excluding NASA from unionization rights to "enhance" national security. Critics of the closure say the administration is taking advantage of the period without



PHOTO COURTESY NASA

The library at Goddard Space Flight Center, now closed

union representation, which is currently the subject of a court case, to close buildings and now the campus' library.

Administrator's View

On January 2, new NASA Administrator Jared Isaacman posted on X that though the

physical space is closing this has long been planned and part of consolidation approved in 2022. NASA researchers will continue to have the scientific information and resources they need and the materials will be evaluated,

See **LIBRARY**, page 8

Celebration: GIVES Turns 30

by Joan Estenson

GHI Court Liaisons Gather To Prepare for SAYT Pilot

by Erica Johns

A receptive crowd of approximately 40 Greenbelt Homes Inc. (GHI) court liaisons and others gathered at Sunrise Caribbean Restaurant on the evening of Tuesday, December 30 to prepare for the Save As You Throw trash collection pilot which began Monday, January 5. Greenbelt Advisory Committee on Environmental Sustainability (Green ACES) Chair John Lippert said the evening's focus was on complex issues not previously discussed.

Attendees included court liaisons; Lippert and other Green ACES and Green Team members; city staff including City Manager Josué Salmerón, Sustainability

Coordinator Luisa Robles and Constituent Services Coordinator Gizelle Alvarez; and City Councilmembers Kristin Weaver, Jenni Pompei and Frankie Fritz.

Setting the Scene

The event began with a buffet meal, during which attendees chatted about trash, recycling and composting among themselves and their courts. Court liaisons share information, help with problems and foster community among GHI neighbors. (The court liaison program restarted in 2025.)

Some of the issues discussed arise from how a new city trash collection rule intersects with an

See **SAYT**, page 6



PHOTO COURTESY GIVES

Members and supporters of GIVES who traveled to Ocean City in 1998 to receive the Award for Excellence from the Maryland Municipal League included, from left: front row, Judith Davis, Janet Parker, Margaret Graham, Betty Petroff and Irene Hensel; back row, Ed Putens, Robert Terrell, Kate Connolly, Ruth Huggins, John Taylor and Tom White.

The year 1995 must have been remarkable because three organizations were born that year: the New Deal Café, Friends of the Greenbelt Library and GIVES, the Greenbelt Intergenerational

Volunteer Exchange Service.

The Beginning

Helen Geller, a gerontology student at the University of Maryland (UM), brought the idea of an organization to provide services to the elderly in their homes to the Senior Citizens Advisory Committee, which decided it was not something they could do. This led to the formation of an independent project design committee and affiliation with the existing Cooperative Caring Network for the first three years.

"We spent time trying to figure out what to call the organization. We wanted an easy acronym, one that would tell what the organization does," said former mayor Judith Davis, a charter member

and longtime vice president of GIVES.

GIVES began as a time dollar program, based on the work of Edgar Cahn, where service givers earn a credit for each hour they give, with the expectation everyone would offer services of some sort, and credits could be used to "pay" for services received. At first this was closely tracked, but it soon became apparent that some members needed services but were unable to offer any service in return, yet no one on the board wanted to deny needed services on that basis.

Services to be offered in the beginning included transportation,

See **GIVES**, page 12



PHOTO BY ERICA JOHNS

At Sunrise Caribbean restaurant on December 30, GHI court liaisons discuss solutions for complex issues faced by some GHI residents preparing for the Save As You Throw trash pilot.

Letters to the Editor

Thank You To Greenbelt

On December 6, Venturing Crew 746 hosted the 5th Annual Winter Wonderland. We would like to take a moment to thank the following community members and organizations that helped to make the event a success: Greenbelt Rotary, our chartering organization, and Mowatt Memorial United Methodist Church, our affiliate organization, for their continued support of the Crew and providing a space to host; Ed’s Tree Service for donating and delivering mulch which helped level the trail and make it safe for our guests; the Greenbelt Police Department for providing an officer and cruiser; the Greenbelt Volunteer Fire Department for displaying and giving a sneak peek inside an ambulance and helping Santa make his way to our event to the delight of the children; our stage entertainment – Zookulele, Sam “the Juggler” Collins and our storytellers Kate and Mark Robinson for entertaining us all evening with music, laughs and stories; Town Center Realty and Frann Fendlay for the amazing popcorn; our community groups who created fun booth displays and offered fun activities and swag – the City of Greenbelt Park Rangers, the Greenbelt Municipal Swim Team and The SPACE Free Art for All; the Greenbelt City Council for their support and showing up every year; and to the wonderful community of Greenbelt for supporting a program that helps grow the next generation of leaders through outdoor adventures and skills, community service and trainings.

Liz Murray, Crew 746 Advisor and the adult leaders and youth members of Crew 746

Oppose Law Firm Choice

As Greenbelt residents who support all city workers’ choice to unionize, we are troubled to learn of the city’s longtime use of Jackson Lewis, a law firm that specializes in union-busting – or as their website calls it, “union avoidance.” We would like our tax dollars to go to a firm that can advise the city on how best to negotiate a fair contract with workers, not one intent on preventing workers from exercising their right

to form and join a union.

There is also a budgetary concern with Jackson Lewis. Their hourly rate is more than double the rate of other good firms who can advise the city on how to negotiate with employees. In these times of economic concern, why should the City of Greenbelt overpay a firm that cannot advise on a fair approach to negotiations with workers?

The city’s Public Works staff have already voted to unionize and, if we respect these workers, negotiations should not be delayed. A city council vote is required to amend the city charter to allow all workers to choose to unionize, not just the police. Once council makes that important vote, it is critical to have legal representation with experience in coming to the table with workers. We urge the city to terminate its agreement with Jackson Lewis and select a law firm that will help the city negotiate justly with our valued city staff. The fairness promised in our community pledge should apply to workers as well as residents.

The City of Greenbelt exemplifies the Spirit of FDR’s New Deal – “no ordinary time” – when government looked out for the little guy, bolstering labor rights by enacting the Wagner Act (1935) and the Fair Labor Standards Act (1938). The city can affirm this spirit by amending the charter, hiring a new law firm and coming to the bargaining table with a commitment to fairness and gratitude toward city workers.

*Cynthia Newcomer
Susan L. Smithers
Louise Weissman
Donna Hoffmeister
John Appiah-Duffell
Bob Rand
Lois Rosado*

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City Notes

City Manager, Public Works/ Sustainability, Public Safety/Community and Constituent Services attended a meeting of Greenbelt Homes Inc. court liaisons regarding SAYT. Code Enforcement inspected five commercial suites and seven rentals and issued one building permit.

Horticulture/Parks replaced trees on Hanover Parkway, cleaned up windstorm debris, continued leaf collection and began Christmas tree pickup. Refuse Collection launched the Save-As-You-Throw Program. Building Maintenance wired a Greenbelt East bus shelter for solar lighting and, at the Community Center, cleaned and waxed the main hallways. Streets prepared the crack sealing trailer for seasonal road maintenance. Mechanic staff repaired a coolant leak and a broken compressor hose on two refuse trucks and did extensive repairs on another vehicle.

Aquatic & Fitness Center staff drained and cleaned the hot tub before contractor inspection of a tile grout issue.

The Springhill Lake Recreation Center hosted Learn-2-Earn and Therapeutic Recreation presented Tech Café for seniors. Arts held a free Artful Afternoon at the Community Center while studios closed for inter-session cleaning and reorganization.



Greenbelt Cinema
129 Centerway
301-329-2034
www.greenbeltcinema.org
Members always \$7.00!
Member kids are always FREE!
After 5 PM: adults \$10, kids \$7, senior/student/military \$9
Before 5 PM:
general admission \$8, kids \$6
OC = Open Captions
CC = Closed Captions
DVS = Descriptive Video Service

SHOWTIMES:
JANUARY 9th - 15th

The Secret Agent
(R) (2025) (160 mins)
In Portuguese and German with English subtitles

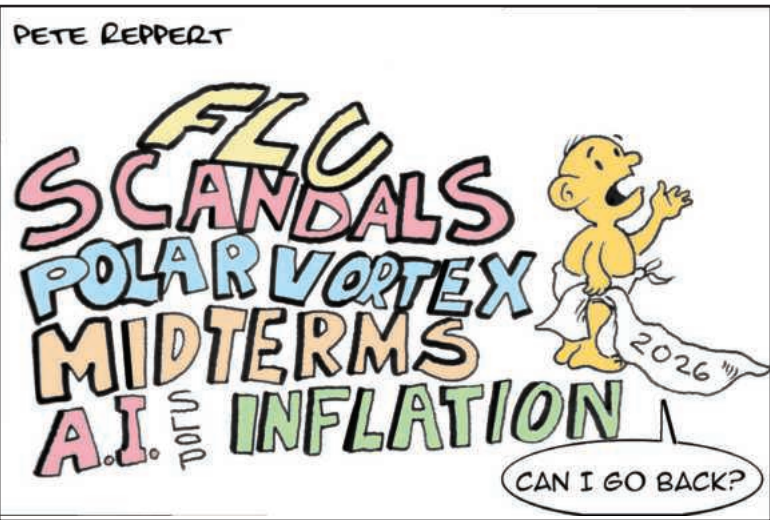
Screen 1 - Main Auditorium
Fri. 5:00 PM, 8:20 PM
Sat. 5:00 PM, 8:20 PM
Mon. 2:00 PM , 5:25 PM
Wed. 7:00 PM
Thurs. 6:45 PM

Screen 2 - The Screening Room
Sun. 1:45 PM, 5:10 PM
Tue. 7:00 PM

Marty Supreme (R)
(CC) (DVS) (2025) (149 mins)

Screen 1 - Main Auditorium
Sun. 2:00 PM
Tue. 7:15 PM

Screen 2 - The Screening Room
Fri. 5:15 PM, 8:35 PM
Sat. 5:15 PM, 8:35 PM
Mon. 2:15 PM, 5:40 PM
Wed. 7:15 PM
Thurs. 3:00 PM



Send Us Your High Resolution Photos!

The News Review encourages readers to send in photos of Greenbelt landmarks, activities and the changing seasons. Photos should be at least 300 dpi, and must include the name of the photographer and a caption. The caption must name any identifiable people in the photo, as well as explain the picture.

If you are sending photos from your phone, please choose the option to send "actual size", or upload the photos to your computer first and then email the photos at full size. Send photos to editor@greenbeltnewsreview.com.



Letters Policy

Deadline for letters is 6 p.m. Monday. Submission does not guarantee publication. Letters should be no longer than 300 words (shorter letters are more likely to be published).

Letters may be edited for clarity, grammar, civility and space constraints. The News Review may add a comment from the editor if deemed necessary.

All letters must include the letter writer's name, physical address, and telephone number. Only the name will be published; the News Review will consider requests for the name to be withheld.



Greenbelt News Review

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PUBLICATION DEADLINES:
- Monday 2 p.m. Articles/photos over 700 words, Display ads (not camera ready).
- Monday 6 p.m. All letters to the editor (300 word limit).
- Tuesday 2 p.m. Articles/photos under 700 words, photographs not associated with a story.
- Tuesday 5 p.m. Co-op dropbox: Classified ads with payment only.
- Tuesday 6 p.m. Classified ads and camera-ready display ads.
- Email submission is available. Hardcopy submissions (delivered by respective deadline) may be mailed to the address above or left in the Co-op grocery store drop box or GNR external office door mail slot, as shown below.
- Payment must accompany ads except by prior arrangement.

MAIL SUBSCRIPTION: \$55/year
Greenbelt Community Center at 15 Crescent Rd.
OFFICE HOURS: Monday and Tuesday, 2 - 4 p.m.
GNR external office door mail slot is located up a few stairs 25 yards left of the Community Center's east door near the Municipal Building.

On Screen at Greenbelt Cinema

The Secret Agent

Brazil, 1977. Marcelo, a technology expert in his early 40s, is on the run. Hoping to reunite with his son, he travels to Recife during Carnival but soon realizes that the city is not the safe haven he was expecting. Winner of Best Director and Best Actor in Cannes and three Golden Globes: Best Screenplay, Best Actor and Best Motion Picture. Said critic Mitchell Beaupre of The Film Stage, “Mixing a sort of arthouse character study with searing socio-political drama and paranoia thriller, The Secret Agent reverberates in the mind for days after watching.”

Marty Supreme

Marty Mauser (Timoth   Chalamet), a young man with a dream no one respects, goes to hell and back in pursuit of greatness. Also starring Josh Safdie, Gwyneth Paltrow and Odessa A’zion. Chalamet trained in table tennis for about seven years to prepare for his role in the movie, traveling with a table while he worked on other films. “Featuring a bracingly energetic performance from Chalamet that is his career best, Marty Supreme, a story of ambition, fame, cultural identity and the American Dream, is as good a Christmas present as Hollywood could give us in these fractious times,” said critic Cary Darling of the Houston Chronicle.

Community Events

At the Library

The Greenbelt Library’s regular hours are Mondays, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Tuesdays and Wednesdays, noon to 8 p.m.; Thursdays and Fridays, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; and Sundays 1 to 5 p.m. Phone 301-345-5800; Bibilo Consulta has a new number: 301-358-6862.

Real-time updates to the Library’s operating schedule due to inclement weather and other emergencies are posted on pgcmls.info/alerts.

Pre-K Story Hour/Hora de Cuentos de Prekinder

Friday, January 9: 10:30 a.m., ages newborn to 5, at the Springhill Lake Recreation Center, 6101 Cherrywood Lane. Enjoy the wonderful world of storytelling. Friends and family welcome. Hosted by Greenbelt Library Staff and Random Unselfish Acts of Kindness (RUAK). Ven y disfruta del maravilloso mundo de contar cuentos. Amigos y familiares son bienvenidos. Organizado por el personal de la biblioteca de Greenbelt y Random Unselfish Acts of Kindness (RUAK). Register at pgcmls.info/event/15089127.

Storytimes
Friday, January 9, 11:15 a.m., ages 2 to 3. Register at pgcmls.info/event/15089316.

Wednesday, January 14, 12:15 p.m., ages 3 to 5. Register at pgcmls.info/event/15089274.

Thursday, January 15, 10:15 a.m., ages newborn to 2. Register at pgcmls.info/event/15089297.

Play and Grow
Wednesday, January 14, 6:30 p.m., ages newborn to 3. Stories, music and activities for children with and without special needs. Presented by the Prince George’s County Public Schools Infants and Toddlers Program for early intervention students and up to 12 community families. Space is available on a first-come, first-served basis. Registration is for interest only and not a guarantee of space. Register at pgcmls.info/event/15089249.

Ride and Read
Thursday, January 15, 11 a.m., ages 16+. Sign up for an hour ride on a stationary bike with free apps from PGCMLS like Libby, Kanopy and Hoopla to enjoy while working out. Participants must be 16 or older, sign a waiver before beginning to ride and be wearing loose-fitting clothing and closed-toed shoes. Register at pgcmls.info/event/15092612.

More Community Events are located throughout the paper.

Ceramic Artists Exhibit At D.C.’s Studio Gallery



Some of the ceramic art works on exhibit at the Studio Gallery

Studio Gallery, near Dupont Circle, is presenting an outreach exhibition, In the Spirit of Community – Ceramics in Greenbelt. This juried exhibition features 33 artists and 43 of their works from the Greenbelt Community Ceramics Program. The exhibition, now open, runs through Saturday, January 24, when there will be a closing reception from 4 to 6 p.m. The artists include Heidi Olson, Mary Gawlik, E. Smela, Lorraine Aldridge-Ey, Jordyn Taylor, Julie Boynton and Christina Guidorizzi.

The Studio Gallery, at 2108 R Street, NW, is open Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday from 1 to 6 p.m. and Saturday from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Contemplative Prayer Group Meets Tuesdays

A contemplative prayer group meets on Tuesdays at the Greenbelt Community Church, United Church of Christ, 1 Hillside Road, from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. This gathering is a time to pray in silence for oneself, others and the world. It nurtures inner and outer peace and reinforces the oneness of all people and creation. The format for this group is an opening introduction, 30 minutes of silence and then optional sharing. All are welcome to attend from all denominations and faith traditions. For more information, email Patience.Robbins@gmail.com.

Tax Preparation Assistance

For the first time since Covid, AARP’s income tax return preparation assistance will resume this year in Greenbelt, coordinated through GIVES. Details are still being worked out and the News Review will provide more information as it is known.

Financial Literacy, Wealth Creation Class

Favor’s Table presents a Financial Literacy Class – Wealth Creation, Protection and Wealth Transfer on January 10 from 3:30 to 4 p.m. at 6215 Greenbelt Road, the tall building beside McDonald’s, Room 205. This class is for adults and those who have not attended the class before. Text 202-468-2049 to sign up by Friday, January 9. Confirm attendance so there will be enough bags of food for everyone to take. Food, clothes, bras and shoes will be given away at the end of class.

Homeschool Animation

Greenbelt Access Television (GATe) is offering a Homeschool Animation Class for 10 weeks, starting on Monday, January 5 at the GATe studio in the Community Center. The morning session runs from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. each week and is limited to seven seats. The afternoon session runs from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. each week and is also limited to seven seats. There is a tuition fee. For more information, contact George Kochell, animation facilitator, at gkochell@yahoo.com.

Community Art Weekly Meet-Ups

Enjoy two free weekly meet-ups starting in January at the Community Center. Yarn & Darn meets on Wednesdays from 7 to 9 p.m. Bring a knitting, crocheting, embroidery, cross stitch or other fiber art project to work on in a relaxing environment.

Craft and Create, a new group for ages 18+, meets on Wednesdays from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. Bring a project in progress, or enjoy a new themed project each week. Bring personal supplies, or use what the group members provide. Both groups meet in the Community Center, Room 113. For more information, email alarsen@greenbeltnmd.gov or mcason@greenbeltnmd.gov. For more information about Greenbelt Recreation arts programs, visit greenbeltnmd.gov/arts.

Make Winter Cards At Artful Afternoon

The Greenbelt Recreation Arts Program invites guests of all ages to join instructor Amanda Spaid and make beautiful watercolor cards at a free upcoming workshop on Sunday, January 11 from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. at the Springhill Lake Recreation Center. This project is suitable for participants of any experience level. Guests are encouraged to sign up in advance at sugeni.us/ehUi. Walk-ins are welcome as space permits. For more information about Greenbelt arts programs, visit greenbeltnmd.gov/arts. Programs are supported in part by the Maryland State Arts Council.

Chess Club Meets Tuesday

The Greenbelt Chess Club will meet on Tuesday, January 13 at the Youth Center from 6:30 to 8:45 p.m. The club welcomes people of all ages and skill levels. To be added to their mailing list, visit tinyurl.com/jcy2nz4m and complete the brief form. Email questions to greenbeltchessclub@gmail.com.

Concert Band Holds Open House

Come to an open house for new Greenbelt Concert Band members on Monday, January 12 at 6:30 p.m. in Room 201 of the Community Center. The band welcomes musicians of all levels who enjoy making music in a friendly, community-oriented setting. Regular rehearsals are on Mondays from 7 to 9 p.m. from September to June. Non-musicians can help too, and students can receive service credit hours. Learn more about the band at greenbeltconcertband.org.

New Year Vegan Potluck

Come to a Great Food Transition New Year Vegan Potluck dinner sponsored by the Chesapeake Education, Arts and Research Society (CHEARS). Bring a plant-based dish (with no animal products) ready to share. A list of recipe ingredients is appreciated. During the evening attendees will learn about the impact of food waste and hear about a great freeze-drying technology for preserving food. The dinner will be held on Wednesday, January 21 from 6 to 8 p.m. in the Community Center Dining Room adjacent to the kitchen. The program is free (donations accepted), but registration is required.



Scan this code to register for the New Year Vegan Potluck.

Spellman Overpass Resistance Fridays

Greenbelt protesters and Indivisible Route 1 Corridor invite everyone to join the ongoing Visibility Resistance on Spellman Overpass, every Friday (EXCEPT IN RAIN, WIND OR SNOW) from 3:30 to 5 p.m./dark. All progressive concerns (ICE intrusions, affordability, elections, Federal workers, due process, environment, LGBTQIA+, union rights ... the list goes on) are welcome at this friendly, inclusive event. Dress warmly and show up, even for a few minutes. Express your First Amendment rights by encouraging Parkway motorists to consider some resistance of their own in this crucial election year. Access from Gardenway or from the Eleanor Roosevelt High School crosswalk. Questions? Email kashla@pm.me.

Featured Programming on Greenbelt Access Television

+ January 2026 +

Verizon FIOS Channel 19 • Comcast Channel 77 • Streaming Online at GreenbeltAccessTV.org

Featured Productions

Featured Program: Benefit Concert for the Hass Family from June 2025, In Memory of Ole Hass

All-New Season of the 2025-2026 PGCPs Science Bowl

Highlights from Greenbelt’s Many Holiday 2025 Festivities

Coverage of the Town Hall Meeting on Reparations from November 2025

All this and more on our cable channels, online streaming, and YouTube channel. As always, thank you for tuning in!

This Week at the New Deal Café

Celebrating 30 Years in Greenbelt! Try Our New Menu & Drinks!

113 Centerway, Roosevelt Center, Greenbelt, MD

Monday, 9am-9pm; Tuesday—Thursday, 9am - 10pm; Friday/Saturday, 9am – 12midnight; Sunday, 9am – 9pm

REMEMBER TO TIP OUR PERFORMERS - IT’S THE ONLY WAY THEY’RE PAID!

TH 1/08	FRI 1/09	SAT 1/10	SUN 1/11	
Elvis Birthday Tribute Show w/ The Basset Hound Boys 7 - 9pm A nostalgic evening	Strange Souls HOST: MARK OPSASNICK 8 - 11pm The Doors Reimagined: blend of faithful homage and creative flair	COMMUNITY DRUM CIRCLE w/ Katy Gaughan The Bob Band 8 - 11pm Dedicated to capturing the vibe and spirit of Bob Dylan	ASL BRUNCH, 10:30a - 12pm The Eric Selby Band 6 - 8pm Blending Americana, psychedelic folk and roots-driven storytelling	
MON 1/12	TUES 1/13	WED 1/14	TH 1/15	New Deal Cafe
LIVE BAND KARAOKE w/ Mike Scott & Friends 6 - 9pm	NDC Open Mic w/ Anthony Case 6 - 9:30pm Sign ups begin at 6pm	BIBLIOPHILES BOOK CLUB, 11a-12p Scotch and Soda 7 - 9pm Jazz, Latin and swing with a deep groove	Classic Jam w/ The Low Rent Quartet 6:30 - 9:30pm Long-running jam. All skill levels welcome.	IT’S TIME TO RENEW OR BECOME A MEMBER OF THE NDC! See link below*

*Join NDC! Go to [NewDealCafe\(dot\)com](http://NewDealCafe(dot)com), click on “ABOUT”, then “BECOME A MEMBER OR RENEW.”

FUNDING FOR THESE ADS PROVIDED BY A GENEROUS DONOR.

Remembering Greenbelters Who Died in 2025

Compiled by Elisabeth Kevorkian

- William Danard Askew, 33, July 25, 2025
Elizabeth Krystyna Balcer-Kubiczek, 83, October 24, 2025
William "Bill" Barber, 80, December 17, 2024
Carlton Bayong, 14, October 5, 2025
Thomas "Tom" Beigel, 51, August 21, 2025
Maria del Rosario de Fatima "Charo" Berumen Guzman, December 20, 2025
Nancy L. Birner, 94, November 27, 2025
Patrick Carroll, 68, July 8, 2025
Martina Darragh, 74, November 18, 2025
Eric Charles Dickerson, 67, October 18, 2025
Catherine Dorsch-Beller, 80, April 4, 2025
Carol Ann Becker Edwards, 82, August 27, 2025
Roger Milton Evans, 84, August 18, 2025
Harry Fendlay, 66, March 8, 2025
Thomas O'Donnell Foerter, 67, October 5, 2025
James K. Giese, 94, August 2, 2025
Kathleen Houchens Gigliotti, 63, February 12, 2025
Delores Marie Goodall, 95, October 4, 2025
Henry Daniel Haslinger, 76, July 10, 2025
Ole Hass, 57, October 26, 2025
Mary Emma Hooper, 98, July 10, 2025
Alan Ralph Huff, 77, June 16, 2025
Larry G. Hull, 82, December 27, 2024
Douglas Michael Johnson, 78, July 21, 2025
Bernice Bloom Kastner, 94, May 31, 2025
Kevin Gerard Kincius, 61, January 24, 2025
Marguerite Kincius, 100, July 15, 2025
Ronald Lynn Kolbe, 74, April 12, 2025
Pamela Lambird, 72, July 12, 2024
Dalisay Lopez, 94, August 11, 2025
Richard I. Marcus, Esq., March 28, 2025
June Anne McEvoy, 96, April 13, 2025
Haven McKinney, 82, March 18, 2025
Yvonne Lee Moore Morrison, 88, October 17, 2025
Robert Francis Musterman Jr., 59, April 14, 2025
Katja Pottschmidt, 54, June 17, 2025
Michael Jason Rawley, 56, October 26, 2025
Paul Remenick, 81, August 22, 2025
Gerald Roper Sr., 77, July 25, 2025
Romell Sabanete Sandoval Roca, 50, January 20, 2025
Svend Robert Schmidt Jr., 68, May 10, 2025
Joe Mack Schubert, 87, December 22, 2024
Boneta "Bonnie" Sue Staughton, 77, December 29, 2024
William R. Steele, 80, June 5, 2022
Derek Thompson, 86, February 21, 2025
Ian Bennett Tuckman, 66, July 21, 2025
Margaret Warner, 84, January 11, 2025
Chrystal Orbyetta Whitaker, 63, February 17, 2025
Linda Ruth White, 77, January 11, 2025
Alice Octavia Cobb White, 95, March 6, 2025
Russell "Rusty" M. Wilbur, 69, August 18, 2025
Neil Williamson, 72, February 18, 2025
Donald "Mac" Wirick, 83, October 15, 2025
Sandra Lee Zambreny, 84, May 6, 2025



Greenbelt PORCH Expands

Greenbelt PORCH is continuing its program to collect food as scheduled below:

Sunday, January 11 - by 11 a.m. for 1-8 Courts Ridge Road, 1-8 Courts Crescent and 1-2 Courts Westway.

Saturday, January 17 - by 10 a.m. for 14 and 15 Courts Laurel Hill.

Sunday, January 18 - by 4 p.m. for 33 Court Ridge Road, Eastway and Boxwood Village; also for P.A.L. (PORCH At Large) members. Email Robert Goldberg-Strassler by noon on January 18 at spreadruak@gmail.com for pickup after 4 p.m. By 5 p.m., for Lakeside Drive.

Saturday, January 24 - by 10 a.m. for 10 from Mathew Street to Megan Lane including Brett Place.

Sunday, January 25 - by 5 p.m. for 18 Court Ridge Road; after 6 p.m. for 11-S Ridge Road, 14 and 16 Courts Ridge Road and 8 and 10 Courts Southway.

Obituaries

Martina Darragh

Martina Darragh, mother, sister, wife and a poet died, at age 74, on November 18, 2025, at Hillhaven Sterling Care nursing facility after several years of living with Alzheimer's disease. Tina was the eldest of seven children of Margaret and Kim Darragh, born in 1950. She grew up in McDonald, Pa., attending Canevin High School, Washington Trinity University in D.C. and University of Maryland. Tina was a well-respected and innovative poet whose work from 1974-2017 is housed at the Special Collections Research Center at George Washington University. She worked for many years as a research librarian at the Georgetown University Bioethics Research Library. Tina preferred to be known for mentoring and encouraging younger writers, poets and students which may indeed be her lasting legacy. Tina married fellow poet Peter Inman in 1976, and they

spent the majority of their lives in Greenbelt. She has one son, Darragh (Jack) Inman, who survives her, and she is survived by three sisters and three brothers, Mimi, Cora, Mary, Peter, Luke and Paul, and two grandchildren, Ali and McKayla. Tina leaves behind many nieces, nephews, cousins and dear friends.

A funeral mass will be held at St. Isidore the Farmer Parish, St. Alphonsus Church in McDonald, Pa., on Saturday, January 17. A private family burial service will be held on Monday, January 19 at Resurrection Cemetery.

A separate celebration of life service will be scheduled in Washington, D.C., at the end of February or early March for the vibrant poetry community she leaves behind.

Donations can be made in Tina's memory to the Alzheimer's Association and/or Foundation or the City of Greenbelt Animal Shelter.



Senior Nutrition Program Luncheon

The Senior Nutrition Food and Friendship program provides lunch for seniors Monday through Friday at the Community Center beginning at 11:30 a.m. Meals must be reserved two weeks ahead so that enough food is ordered. Participants must complete a registration form in person at the Community Center office, Monday through Friday between 9 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. There is a suggested donation. Call 301-397-2208, ext. 4215 with questions.

Two menu options, one vegetarian, will be offered for each luncheon. All meals, which provide at least one third of recommended dietary allowances for older adults, include margarine, coffee or tea and skim milk.



Our condolences to the family and many friends of Martina Darragh who died on November 18. She will be greatly missed in the poetry community.

Congratulations to Greenbelt Intergenerational Volunteer Exchange Service (GIVES) on 30 years of service to the people of Greenbelt.

Send details of your news to editor@greenbeltnewsreview.com.



Obituaries

The News Review publishes obituaries of Greenbelt residents, past or present.

You write it or we will if you prefer. We try to include information about participation in various activities and organizations, where the person lived and something about the family. A photograph and service information should be included. There is no charge.

CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OF GREENBELT
Mass Sundays at 10:00 a.m.
Community Center Room 114
15 Crescent Rd
cathcomgreenbelt.org
ALL ARE WELCOME!

A Roman Catholic Intentional Eucharistic Community
OR - Join us on ZOOM!
For ZOOM link:
[CCG1985+owneregroups.io](https://www.zoom.us/j/9854099999)

As we celebrate the 250th anniversary of our democracy:

"O God! ...Confirm this revered nation to upraise the standard of the oneness of humanity."

— 'Abdu'l-Bahá

Greenbelt Bahá'í Community

www.greenbeltbahais.org

St. John's Episcopal Church

11040 Baltimore Avenue, Beltsville, MD 20704
301-937-4292 www.saintjohnsbeltsville.org

Welcomes you each Sunday for
Worship & Sunday School
at 10:00 AM

Mishkan Torah Congregation

10 Ridge Road, Greenbelt, MD 20770
Rabbi Saul Oresky, Cantor Phil Greenfield

An unpretentious, historic, welcoming, liberal, egalitarian synagogue that respects tradition and becomes your extended family in the 21st century.

Friday evening services at 8:00pm
Saturday morning services at 10:00am
Offering hybrid services, online and in-person activities
For further information, call (301) 474-4223 www.mishkantorah.org
Affiliated with these movements: Conservative and Reconstructing Judaism

Paint Branch Unitarian Universalist Church

Postal address: P.O. Box 676, Laurel, MD 20725
Phone: 301-937-3666 www.pbuuc.org

Welcomes you to our open, nurturing community

January 11, 2026, at 3 p.m.

Accentuate the Positive

Anthony Jenkins with Worship Associate Jim Flaherty

In the spirit of our January theme (Upholding Justice and Unity), we'll explore affirmation as a spiritual practice in personal relationships - and a very necessary component of effective justice work.

Streaming on PBUUC's Facebook page, on Zoom, and in person. Worship service held at University Christian Church, 6800 Adelphi Road, Hyattsville, MD

Mowatt Memorial United Methodist Church

40 Ridge Road, Greenbelt

Open hearts, Open Minds, Open doors

Find us on [facebook.com/mowattumc](https://www.facebook.com/mowattumc)

301-474-5410

Pastor Evelyn Romero

Worship Service, Sundays 9:30 - 10:30 a.m.

Living Generously in a World that Holds Back

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

GREENBELT COMMUNITY CHURCH

One Hillside Road

Join Us Sunday

10:15 AM for Worship

www.greenbeltcommunitychurch.org

We Are an Open and Affirming Church

ST. HUGH OF GRENOBLE CATHOLIC CHURCH

- Daily Mass: Mon-Fri 7:15am*, Sat 9am*
- Sunday Mass:
 - Sat vigil 5pm*
 - Sun 8am, 9:30am, 11am
- Confessions Saturday 3pm - 4pm.

Masks for the unvaccinated encouraged.

CELEBRATE WITH US

135 Crescent Rd.

www.sthughofgrenoble.org

*Live streamed on Facebook and available on our YouTube page later.



City Information & Events

The strength of Greenbelt is diverse people living together in a spirit of cooperation. We celebrate all people. By sharing together all are enriched. We strive to be a respectful, welcoming community that is open, accessible, safe and fair.

GREENBELT CITY CALENDAR

Be sure to check out the City calendar for all up to date events at www.greenbeltnmd.gov/calendar.



GREENBELT CITY COUNCIL - REGULAR MEETING

Monday, January 12 at 7:30 pm

ORGANIZATION

Call to Order

Roll Call

Meditation and Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

Reading of the Greenbelt Community Pledge

Petitions and Requests

Consent Agenda

- * Authorizing City Manager to Execute a Contract with the University of Maryland for analysis of the Community Questionnaire
 - * Authorizing the City Manager to execute a contract for the purchase of a cold storage trailer for food recovery programs
 - * Authorization for City Manager to Approve Contract with Power DMS
 - * Authorization for City Manager to Approve Collision Repair Services for Police Vehicle(s)
 - * Authorization for City Manager to Approve Contract with Schindler
 - * Authorization for City Manager to Execute Payment for the Police Department Annual Versaterm Subscription
- Approval of Agenda and Additions

COMMUNICATIONS

Presentations

- Presentation by State's Attorney Office - Tara Jackson

Public Hearing

Minutes

Administrative Reports

Committee Reports

LEGISLATION

- Charter Amendment: Collective Bargaining Rights for Public Works Employees - 2nd Reading, Adoption
- Ordinance: Parking Regulations for Electric Vehicle Charging Stations at the Municipal Building -2nd Reading, Adoption
- Resolution for Annexation Area 1 - 1st reading
- Resolution for Annexation Area 2 - 1st reading
- Resolution for Annexation Area 3 - 1st reading

OTHER BUSINESS

- Authorization for City Manager to Approve of Stop Sign Contract
- Authorization for City Manager to Approve Red-Light Camera Agreement with Verra Mobility
- Council Reports
- Council Activities
- Meetings

In advance, the hearing impaired is advised to use MD RELAY at 711 to submit your questions/comments or contact the City Clerk at (301) 474-8000 or email banderson@greenbeltnmd.gov.

This agenda is subject to change. For the most up-to-date agenda, visit www.greenbeltnmd.gov/municipalTV or call (301) 474-8000.

CURRENT GAIL PROGRAMS

CARES is happy to provide the following programs **FREE** of charge. For more information, email Katherine Farzin at kfarzin@greenbeltnmd.gov or (240) 542-2019.

- **OPEN COMPUTER LAB FOR ADULTS** 1st and 3rd Monday of each month. Weekly sign-up required.
- **FREE MONTHLY DIAPER DISTRIBUTION** Greenbelt Residents Only. First time participants must provide proof of residency, state-issued ID, birth certificate (or copy) for each child.

FREE RESOURCE FAIR

Sunday, January 18 from 12 - 3pm

Springhill Lake Recreation Center, 15 Crescent Road

Fresh Start Fair: Join us for a New Year-themed youth resource fair offering programs, services, and opportunities for youth of all ages in the City of Greenbelt. Explore tutoring and mentoring programs, career pathways, internships and summer jobs, volunteer opportunities, youth wellness and counseling resources, arts, recreation, leadership, and student engagement programs all in one place. Enjoy prizes, a video game truck, and a grocery giveaway while connecting with our community partners and local organizations. We also have a limited number of vendor spots available — if your organization provides services to youth and families in Greenbelt, please email Galvarez@greenbeltnmd.gov or call 240-542-2020.

MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY OF SERVICE

MONDAY, JANUARY 19, 10 AM - 1 PM

Buddy Attick Park, 555 Crescent Road

Be a part of the community effort to protect trees from beaver herbivory and invasive vines at Buddy Attick Park. Volunteers will work with Public Works staff to place wire caging around the trunks of native trees to protect them from beavers and remove invasive vines.

Email kdriscoll@greenbeltnmd.gov or visit our [Sign-up Genius page](#).

MEDICARE MADE SIMPLE: PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY SHIP PRESENTATION

Monday, January 12 at 1pm

Greenbelt Community Center, 15 Crescent Road

Attend a free educational presentation hosted by Greenbelt Recreation and the Prince George's County State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP). SHIP offers confidential, unbiased counseling to help Medicare beneficiaries, caregivers, and individuals new to Medicare understand enrollment, plan comparisons, prescription drug coverage, financial assistance programs, and Medicare rights.

BILINGUAL PRE-K STORY HOUR

HORA DE CUENTOS DE PREKINDER

Friday, January 9 | 10:30 - 11:30 am

Springhill Lake Recreation, 6101 Cherrywood Lane

Join us on the second Friday of every month!

Children Ages 0-5

Come and enjoy the wonderful work of storytelling and free health snacks. Friends & family are all welcome to attend.

Niños de 0-5 años

Ven y disfruta del maravilloso mundo de contar cuentos y bocadillos saludables port gratis. ¡Amigos y familiares bienvenidos!

This series is sponsored by RUAK (Random Unselfish Acts of Kindness); Prince George's County Memorial Library System; Greenbelt Recreation, American Legion Auxillary, and Greenbelt COOP.

Contact joseph.vincent@gpcmls.info or spreadruak@gmail.com.



CITY OF GREENBELT NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Monday, January 12, 2026 at 7:30pm

Greenbelt Municipal Building, 25 Crescent Road

Notice is hereby given that the City Council will conduct a public hearing on the Charter Amendment Resolution Number 2025-03 – Resolution Number 2124: A Charter Amendment Resolution of the Council of the City of Greenbelt to Amend §3-22 "Powers" of the City Charter to Authorize the City of Greenbelt to Engage in Collective Bargaining with a Representative of Public Works Employees by Following Procedures in Amended Article VIII of Chapter 13 of the City Code.

City Council will hold a public hearing on this charter resolution on January 12, 2026, at 7:30 pm in the Council Room at the Greenbelt Municipal Building located at 25 Crescent Road, Greenbelt, Maryland 20770. Public testimony will be received by the City Council at the hearing on the above date. Written comments may either be presented at this hearing or sent to the City Clerk.

The public is welcome to attend. The Charter Resolution is available online and at the Clerk's office. For more information, please contact the City Manager's office at (301) 474-8000.

Bonita Anderson, City Clerk
City of Greenbelt
301-474-8000

CHRISTMAS TREE COLLECTION (2025-2026) THROUGH FEBRUARY 6, 2026

Your discarded Christmas Tree can be recycled. The Public Works Department will start picking up trees at the locations listed below on December 29th. The trees will be processed through the woodchipper and can then be used as mulch around trees and flower beds. Please remove all ornaments, lights, and tree stands.

Bring trees to the following areas marked with green tree signs until February 6, 2026.

MAP VIEW

View a GIS Map on the [Christmas Tree collection page](#) for a map of all locations.

GHI

- Ridge Rd - 73 Court (across on playground side)
- Plateau Pl & Ridge Rd (corner on playground side)
- Research Rd & Hillside Rd (corner)
- Ridge Rd - 44 Court (area near playground)
- Eastway & Crescent Rd (corner)
- Ridge Rd - 21 Court (across from Green Ridge House)
- Crescent Rd & Ridge Rd (playground at junction)
- Parkway (corner across from Community Church)
- Southway - 7 Court (playground at Little League field)
- Ridge Rd - 11 Court & 13 Court (common area between courts)

BOXWOOD

- Ivy Ln & Lastner Ln (next to playground)

LAKEWOOD

- Greenhill & Crescent (corner by Baptist Church)

UNIVERSITY SQUARE

- Open area in front of swimming pool

LAKESIDE NORTH

- Open area in front of swimming pool

SPRINGHILL LAKE

- Edmonston Rd (down from 9294 near dumpsters)

GREENBRIAR

- Hanover Pkwy (open area between buildings 7708 & 7710)
- Hanover Pkwy & Mandan Rd (corner near building 7824)

GLEN OAKS

- Mandan Rd (open area in front of building 8017)

HUNTING RIDGE

- Hanover Pkwy (open area between buildings 6936 & 6978)

WINDSOR GREEN

- Frankfurt Dr & Morrison Dr (corner across from pool parking lot)

GREENBROOK VILLAGE AND ESTATES

- Ora Glen Dr & Matthew St (corner)

- Hanover Pkwy & Greenbrook Dr (corner)

GREENWOOD VILLAGE

- Mandan Rd (corner at 7516)

GREENSPRING I & GREENSPRING II

- Greenbury Dr (park area between 7926 & 8006)
- Spring Manor Dr & Springshire Way (corner)

BELLE POINT

- Vanity Fair Dr & Prince James Way (corner)

GREENBELT LAKE VILLAGE

- Village Park Dr (open area between 6729 & 6715)

GREENBELT STATION

- Stream Bank Ln (open area across from Central Park)

RECOGNITION GROUP APPLICATIONS

Deadline February 3

The City of Greenbelt is currently accepting all Recognition Group Applications for FY2026 (July 1, 2026 – June 30, 2027). The deadline is February 3, 2026. Applications can be found at <https://www.greenbeltnmd.gov/465/Clubs-Contacts-and-Recognition-Groups>

For further information, please contact cpracht@greenbeltnmd.gov.

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS

In the City of Greenbelt, we remain committed to embracing and celebrating the diversity of all. As our nation undergoes change, feelings of pride, uncertainty, and even fear may arise. Yet, we stand firm in the pledge that has defined Greenbelt since its inception and will not falter.

Learn more at <https://www.greenbeltnmd.gov/government/know-your-rights-immigration-resources>.

ARTS HAPPENINGS

Visit www.greenbeltnmd.gov/arts for more information and many other opportunities!

Sign up for ARTFANS, a weekly e-newsletter, at www.greenbeltnmd.gov/list.aspx.

Artful Afternoons - FREE

Sunday 1/11; 1:30-2:30pm at Springhill Lake Recreation Center. Decorate winter cards with watercolors and more. Suitable for all ages. Walk-ins welcome. Sign up at sugeni.us/ehU

Beyond Beginning Sewing

Tuesdays 1/13-2/17; 12-2pm Greenbelt Community Center. Learn basic sewing skills including sewing terminology and how to use a sewing machine. Students will sew a project each class. All materials provided. Registration required; see page 22 of the winter activity guide for details - www.greenbeltnmd.gov/activityguide.

MORE ARTS HAPPENING SOON

- **Intro to Comics** 1/13-2/24; 4:30 - 6pm, Greenbelt Community Center
- **Drypoint Etching & Gelli Plate Monoprinting** 1/15-2/26; 6:30 - 8:30pm, Greenbelt Community Center
- **Make & Take Ceramics** 1/16-1/23; 6 - 8pm Greenbelt Community Center

Registration required for these activities, see www.greenbeltnmd.gov/activityguide for details.

SIGN UP FOR CURBSIDE COMPOSTING

Make composting the easiest resolution to check off of your list in the new year! For just \$10 you can help Greenbelt reduce food waste and create productive compost. Sign up today at compostcrew.com/greenbelt.

A majority (or quorum) of Greenbelt City Council members may attend community organization meetings, but no official Council action will be taken at these meetings. Please note that meeting locations may change after being published. For information on how to join these meetings, contact the respective organization directly.

FEATURED PETS

STORM



Ready for Adoption? Call (301) 474-6124

She might look like a wild savannah cat, but 1-year-old Storm is perfectly domesticated! We think Storm is a Bengal/mix cat, a breed known for its striking fur coat and playful personality. Storm was found as a stray, so we don't know her true lineage – but she's a 100% good girl! Unfortunately, Storm has FeLV (feline leukemia virus), which affects her immune system but is not contagious to humans or other species of animals. However, she may be contagious to other cats so she will need a home without other cats (or with cats already FeLV+).

If you're interested in adopting Stellar Storm, please reach out to us at animalservices@greenbeltnmd.gov or call us at (301) 474-6124.

SAYT continued from page 1

existing GHI trash storage rule. GHI requires storing cans in closets or enclosures. Beginning this month, city waste collectors will no longer remove trash from those spaces, instead requiring GHI residents to move trash to a visible location for collection, and newly enforcing an existing city rule to place trash bags in tightly-lidded cans. Some GHI residents aren't physically capable of moving cans from closets/enclosures, and some GHI residents who didn't previously use cans must purchase cans.

Challenging Trash Enclosures

Court liaison Jan Wolf and Green Team member Susan Barnett mentioned enclosures whose design allows trash can removal only by lifting straight up, instead of safe lifting by squatting to reduce the risk of back injury.

Robles acknowledged the issue, saying she was aware of only two such enclosures within GHI. Robles said the city will work with residents with such enclosures. There is an on-premises collection request form on the SAYT webpage. (See box.)

Exemptions

Court liaison and News Review member Carol Griffith asked about the status of on-premises collection requests from residents. (Residents physically unable to remove cans from GHI enclosures or closets, or to single family home curbs, may request an exemption from doing so.) Robles said she was currently aware of five requests, two of which were ineligible because one contained no justification and the other had a household member able to move the can.

Residents don't have to describe their limitation, but they do need to attest to a physical limitation preventing them from placing trash and recycling outside enclosures/closets or at single family home curbs. They must also attest there is no other physically capable person in the household, and provide copies of the requestor's ID, and either their handicapped parking tag or a physician's note confirming the limitation. They can provide these items via the SAYT webpage form, or in person at Public Works or by mailing them there. Robles said she has printed and taken forms to residents without computers.

Those with a temporary physical limitation, such as after surgery, may also request on-premises collection, said Weaver.

Disabled, Other

Lore Rosenthal said she is co-



A trash can and recycling bin at a Research Road GHI home on Tuesday, January 6

ordinating with the Golden Age Club and the Greenbelt Intergenerational Volunteer Exchange Service (GIVES) to provide information and support for members to integrate SAYT with independent living in their own homes.

Court liaison Diana Rutherford suggested large print versions of the city flyers that review what items are and are not recyclable or compostable, because every resident may not be able to use city webpages with the flyers. Robles planned to act on the suggestion. (See box.)

Several attendees raised the sensitive issue of residents with memory challenges who may find it difficult to follow SAYT rules. Rosenthal said Max Trash stickers may be a simple approach for some to begin with. Another concern was people working to address hoarding by removing many bags of items from homes. In response, some suggested using bulk trash or taking bags to workplaces - if the workplace allows that.

Salmerón emphasized the availability of city services to help residents with dementia, hoarding and other challenges, including helping disabled and elderly residents stay in their homes. Alvarez can connect residents to city staff from Greenbelt Assistance in Living (GAIL) and CARES, who can partner with residents, families, court liaisons and neighbors. (See box.)

Cans to Fit Trash Closets

Among GHI residents purchasing trash cans for the first time, some with smaller trash closets are having difficulty finding small enough cans. Salmerón told attendees the city will purchase cans in bulk for small closets, after determining the correct size and needed quantity. He asked GHI residents with smaller closets

to provide their closet width and depth, name, address and contact information to Robles and Alvarez. Wolf suggested that smaller hardware stores such as Ace and Strosnider's may have more choices than big box stores or online vendors.

Multifamily Homes

Bob Cahalan spoke about choosing between SAYT bags or Max Trash stickers in multifamily households, such as where parents live on one floor and an adult child's family on another. Assuming such homes receive one trash bill, and are thus eligible for one Max Trash sticker and up to 99 gallons of trash weekly, Lippert said using SAYT bags would be best. This allows each family to choose how to pay for the trash they produce.

Ask for Help Soon

During the SAYT pilot's first two weeks, January 5 to 17, residents can familiarize themselves with its operation without penalty. In the first week, households using neither SAYT bags nor Max Trash stickers will receive a warning notice and their trash will be collected. If the behavior recurs in the second week, the household will receive a warning notice and their trash will not be collected. In the third week, warning notices will change to fines and trash will not be collected.

Robles encourages households with particular challenges to contact the city as soon as possible, especially during the first two weeks. She told the News Review that Public Works is available to make site visits to help residents devise solutions, whether for a problem enclosure, physical limitations or how to recycle more. She advised contacting Public Works Director Brian Kim, Refuse/Recycling Supervisor Michael Barnes and herself. (See box.)

Greenbelter Competes In National Pageant

Greenbelt resident Mercy Akowe represented the city at the 2025 National American Miss National Pageant in Orlando, Fla., held from November 23 to 30. After starting the year as a Maryland State Finalist, she earned multiple honors at the state pageant - including the Miss Spirit Award, Talent Winner and a Top 10 placement - which qualified her to advance to the national stage.

She also highlighted her personal platform, Big Sis, dedicated to uplifting and supporting eldest daughters.

Akowe described the experience as one of the most meaningful achievements of her year and said she is proud to have carried the name of Greenbelt throughout her journey. Her participation highlights the dedication, talent and community spirit of local youth.



Mercy Akowe competes in the National American Miss pageant.

Free Irish Dance Workshop in January

College Park Arts Exchange is sponsoring a free Irish dance workshop on Saturday, January 10 from 2 to 3:30 p.m. at the Old Parish House, 4711 Knox Road, College Park. This low-impact and rhythmic introduction to sean nós dance, a traditional Irish percussive dance style known for its musicality and footwork, will be taught by Kate Spanos, who has over 30 years of training as an Irish dancer and scholar. Perfect for adults of all levels, this class emphasizes connection to Irish music and encourages people to find joy in moving their body to the music. Find out more at cpae.org.

Repair Café At Makerspace

The next free Greenbelt Makerspace Repair Café is on Saturday, January 17 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Granite Building, 115 Centerway. Come learn how to repair your tired or broken stuff or help repair others' items (experienced and novice volunteers needed). Bring clothing, furniture, appliances, computers, jewelry, toys, etc. for the challenge of making them useful again. See tools.greenbeltmakers.org for more information. Borrow tools and other things at the Tool Library on Thursdays 6:30 to 8 p.m., Saturdays 10 a.m. to noon and Sundays 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.



SAYT Resources

Gizelle Alvarez, Constituent Services Coordinator, galvarez@greenbeltmd.gov, 240-542-2020

Michael Barnes, Refuse/Recycling Coordinator, 301-474-8004

Brian Kim, Public Works Director, bkim@greenbeltmd.gov, 301-474-8004

Luisa Robles, Sustainability Coordinator, lrobles@greenbeltmd.gov, 240-542-2153

Public Works, 555 Crescent Road, Greenbelt, MD 20770 (below Buddy Attick Park parking lot)

SAYT pilot and on-premises collection request
www.greenbeltmd.gov/sayt

What is and isn't Recyclable

Flyer: <https://tinyurl.com/5x32z56p>
Video: <https://tinyurl.com/5dncnfcw>

Food scrap composting

What is and isn't compostable: <https://tinyurl.com/mw635j5m>
Register for curbside food scrap composting: <https://compostcrew.com/greenbelt>
Or take food scraps to collection bins at Buddy Attick Park.





The Mountaineer

A High-Altitude Musical
by Diana Raynes

mountaineer-the-musical.com

January 9-17, 2026
Fridays & Saturdays 8pm
Sunday, January 11, 2pm

Scan QR code for tickets or visit GreenbeltArtsCenter.org

School News

Grab & Go Breakfasts Support Students Amid Uncertainties

by Marilyn Phan



Every ERHS student can receive free breakfast and is permitted to eat their breakfast in their first period classroom.

The government shutdown delayed the November 2025 Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits to recipients, with some states making partial payments during the lapse. December saw a return to a normal payment schedule. In Fiscal Year (FY) 2024 there were on average 42 million people receiving benefits, approximately 12 percent of the nation's population. In Maryland during FY 2024 some 694,000 people received benefits. Grab & Go breakfast programs are an effort to expand school breakfast for eligible students in Maryland and is an alternative service method to traditional breakfast served in the cafeteria. Eleanor Roosevelt High School (ERHS) Principal Dr. Portia Barnes announced ERHS' participation in the Grab & Go breakfast program, providing free

breakfast for students starting October 24, 2025. At least 40 percent of ERHS students are on free or reduced cost meals. "During these difficult times, it was imperative that we opt for this program to support our ERHS families," said Kimberly Ford, an ERHS administrator. The Maryland Meals for Achievement program (MMFA) provides funds for schools to support students' nutrition needs in preparation for classroom learning. MMFA currently supports 581 schools throughout the state. Its ongoing efforts to financially support the breakfast program have been praised for encouraging students to start their days with a nutritious breakfast, which in turn increases student attendance and academic performance in school. The program not only allows every student to receive free break-

fast but it grants them permission to eat their breakfast in their first period classrooms. Although the Grab & Go breakfast program is only approved under the current 2025-2026 school year, school administration hopes to ensure that ERHS will continue its participation in the program next year. So far, students and parents have been appreciative of the breakfast program. One ERHS student reported that their family's recent change in budget has led them to shop for groceries differently, prioritizing absolute necessities and budget-friendly items. A student notes that, to improve students' experiences in the program, "students should be able to take home the rest of the uneaten breakfast food at the end of the day to prevent excess food waste." There also appears to be a high preference for food variety such as more fruits and options for lactose-intolerant students. One ERHS student reports that the SNAP and the Grab

See **BREAKFAST**, page 11

Seeking Student Partnerships With Greenbelt Concert Band

Are you a high school musician looking for a fun, supportive way to perform with a community band? Join the Greenbelt Concert Band (GCB). **Two Ways to Participate** One Concert Experience. Rehearse for just one concert - no long-term commitment and perform with experienced musicians in a welcoming environment. **Featured Guest Performance.** Perform as a soloist, small ensemble or school group. Rehearse with the band leading up to the concert. **Why Join?** To gain real performance experience, meet and play alongside other musicians and be part of a vibrant, community-based music program. Try it once - and come back if you love it. **Open House for New Musicians** Monday, January 12 at 6:30 p.m. in Room 201, Community Center. Stay and observe or join rehearsal from 7 to 9 p.m. (Parents or guardians of minors are required to stay on site.) **About GCB** The Greenbelt Concert Band is a friendly, volunteer commu-

nity ensemble that values musical growth, collaboration and the joy of making music together. Rehearsals are Mondays from 7 to 9 p.m. from September to June. **Not a Musician?** Become a Band Aide. Help with concert setup, greeting audiences, creating flyers, programs and taking photos and videos. This is a great opportunity for student service hours. **Interested or Want to Learn More?** Contact Director Joan Rackey for more information at director@greenbeltconcertband.org. Learn more about GCB at greenbeltconcertband.org.

ANACOSTIA TRAILS HERITAGE AREA, INC.

Explore the History, Culture, Arts and Nature of Prince George's County!

Curated routes and trail maps:
anacostiatrials.org

AT&T, Human I-T Give Laptops To Greenbelt Middle, Others



From left: Greenbelt Middle School (GMS) Principal Marcellus J. Clement, GMS science teacher Abiodun A. Eniade, GMS student Uchenna Ekoh, his mother Nneka Ekoh and AT&T sales executive Michael Canty

AT&T and Human I-T provided the organization Community Youth Advance with 200 refurbished laptops to distribute to students in Prince George's County who have limited access to technology. The computers, funded by an AT&T contribution, were given during a special event in mid-December at Greenbelt Middle School. The first distribution occurred previously at G. James Gholson Middle School in Landover. Additional distribution events will be held at two other schools in early January: William Wirt Middle School in Riverdale and Largo High School in Upper Marlboro. "A laptop in the hands of a motivated middle school scholar is a powerful catalyst. It doesn't just assist them with completing assignments; it unlocks their full potential for digital literacy, creativity and critical thinking. The value of this connection to the digital world - and the opportunities it creates for this young

scholar - is truly immeasurable," said Terra Harris, executive director, Community Youth Advance. "AT&T is proud to continue to collaborate with organizations like Community Youth Advance to help close the digital divide in Prince George's County," said Katie McEvoy, regional director of External Affairs, AT&T Maryland and Delaware. *This information is from a press release issued by Karen Twomey, lead public relations manager for AT&T Corporate Communications.*



Crisis Hotline's Number is 988
The National Suicide Prevention Lifeline dialing code is 988. Calls and text messages are confidential and free.

Seasons Greetings from **Nugent & Kash** OF COMPASS

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Dr. Dianna Lee, Dr. Clayton McCarl, and Dr. Richard Duarte are licensed general dentists.

LIBRARY continued from page 1

digitized and transferred to other libraries or “otherwise preserved for historical purposes.” However, those on site paint a different picture, alleging that they have been denied the chance to lobby for the preservation of the material they need, refused the opportunity to bring in subject-area specialists to speak to librarians about items and documents of importance to their missions and they’ve been told that digitization is too costly. Two Goddard employees who spoke separately to the News Review said they are told only 10 to 15 percent of the library’s documents will be preserved.

The News Review asked Goddard’s News Chief Rob Garner if he could tell us what percentage of the library’s holdings will be preserved through digitization, if he could speak to whether that had been deemed too costly and if subject-matter experts were involved in the review. We also asked if Goddard has data about how much the library was being utilized by Goddard employees prior to its closure for 60-day review. Garner responded, “At this time, we’re directing inquiries on the library to Administrator Isaacman’s post on X.”

Agreement with Unioin

Almost 15 years ago, in October 2011, leaders attempted to close the Goddard library and “transition to electronic services.” However, in April 2012 GESTA filed an Unfair Labor Practice Charge and in October 2012 NASA agreed to reopen and maintain the Goddard library, ensure employees have access during their workday and to give written notification of any proposed changes or decisions impacting it to the union. Though Isaacman’s statement says the closure was approved in 2022, the union, which was only suspended in August 2025, had never been notified of this. The library is housed in Building 21, which is not one of the buildings slated for closure in the master plan for Goddard that was released in 2022.

Significance of Closure

The loss of a physical library doesn’t signal modernization or an era of digital access to resources, complained employees we spoke with. In fact, their access to online journals and research has been reduced in recent years, said two. “They’re cutting/unsubscribing from scientific journals, and have done since the start of [last] year, so we cannot read scientific journal articles online from places like SPIE or IEEE,” said K, a co-op scientist. About accessing the library’s resources online going forward, K reported that officials who were asked about digitization responded that it is “just too expensive.” “This is just another step in the path Goddard has been walking [for a] year: reduce capacity, reduce capability, reduce costs or expenses,” said K. Those in charge have said they’ll only subscribe to the most used journals but some subscriptions were cancelled last year without notifying the users, he said. “One can imagine that aerospace engineers want to read different journals than heliophysicists but that they might both be working on the same space telescope project,” he said. As a co-op scientist, K has access to journals through the university he is affiliated with. It’s much harder for his civil servant colleagues, he said, who ask him to get articles for them or ask

the GSFC librarians to get copies from elsewhere, which can take days. “Sometimes, when you are doing research, you think a particular article is what you need, but then you read it and realize it isn’t. Normally that’s a 20-, 30-, 40-minute exercise,” said K, “now ... that could take days.” Though K isn’t as impacted because he has other access routes, it’s still more time consuming and inconvenient and involves him switching VPNs, for example.

Access to Resources

A civil servant we spoke with said he needed to consult the library regularly, using journals and historic papers in his research. Some are rare and only at the Goddard Library and others can be accessed through mechanisms like interlibrary loan but that adds unreasonable delay for those working to tight flight deadlines, he said. At one point Goddard employees had access to University of Maryland online resources, including journals, but that arrangement ended some time ago, said the civil servant, leaving Goddard more heavily reliant on their own library and subscriptions. Historic documents are important, he explained, because some of their work involves drawing on technology and work that hasn’t been done since the space race, for example. When there are decades between missions, when analog technologies of the past can be used in space, the library offers an invaluable repository of questions and findings from those who worked on similar problems decades ago.

The civil servant we spoke with says their request for subject-matter experts to be consulted as library materials are assessed was rejected. Librarians are currently making the call on what to keep, he said. Ninety percent of the holdings of the library are being excessed, he was told, and it was even suggested that the engineers and scientists might be able to purchase the materials

they want if they’re auctioned off. Fortunately, there’s a repository of journals and research nearby at the University of Maryland, but he says there isn’t time during his workday to drive there, and he knows he won’t be paid for his time at the university library to research and scan or print documents as a member of the public at the weekend.

NASA scientists will suffer even more from the loss of the library, said the civil servant. The scientists are at least partially funded by grants and deeply involved in cutting edge research. They’re expected to regularly publish in journals that they’re losing ready access to as the library closes.

Senator’s Concern

Senator Chris Van Hollen, ranking member on the Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies, expressed concern for Goddard to the News Review on Tuesday. “Given that the Trump Administration spent the last year attacking NASA Goddard and its workforce, I remain deeply concerned that their consolidation efforts will hamper NASA’s ability to explore space, deepen our understanding of earth and spur technological advancements that make our economy stronger and nation safer. It’s critical that NASA employees retain access to the research materials they need to conduct their important work. I will continue to closely monitor the actions this Administration is taking to determine whether Goddard’s dedicated scientists and researchers have the materials they need to fulfill their critical mission,” said Van Hollen.





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Police Blotter

Incidents reported here occurred December 29, 2025, through January 4, 2026. Readers are encouraged to contact the police if they have information that may aid in an inquiry. Call the non-emergency number 301-474-7200 or email pd@greenbeltmd.gov. Times provided are when the incidents were reported.

Incident Summary

Greenbelt Police reported four mental health diversions, one involving suicide and one involving an overdose; one domestic incident; and one call for Child Protective Services.

Police reunited a 2-year-old with her family; the child was found walking alone outside. In another incident, a boy was reported missing but returned safely.

Signs of Arson

On January 2 at 9:15 p.m. near 9340 Edmonston Road, officers observed signs of arson. The Fire Marshal took over the investigation when the resident did not want to cooperate, and a report was written.

Threats

On January 4 at 12:39 p.m. near 9330 Edmonston Road, a man received calls from a woman who said she would show up to his girlfriend's residence and harass him and his girlfriend.

DUI

On January 1 at 4:42 a.m. near 9238 Edmonston Road, a driver was arrested for DUI after he backed into a vehicle and attempted to leave the scene. He was provided a safe ride home after he was served his tickets.

On January 2 at 12:49 a.m. near Greenbelt Road and Cipriano Road, an officer on patrol observed a vehicle involved in traffic violations, and the driver was determined to be under the influence of alcohol. He was arrested for DUI and released from the station.

Fraud

On December 30 near 6109 Breezewood Court, a woman who had lost her credit card on December 23 discovered unauthorized transactions; near 7806 Hanover Parkway, someone's information was used to open a vehicle loan; near 6017 Springhill Drive, a woman sent \$10,000 to someone she met online.

On January 2 near 7511 Mandan Road, someone used a woman's name to register a 1991 Toyota.

Theft and Shoplifting

On December 29 at 10:18 a.m. near 25 Parkway, packages had been stolen from the front door over the past several weeks; at 11:07 a.m. near 7483 Greenbelt Road, a man wearing all black clothing stole several packs of hair bundles and fled on foot.

On December 30 at 1:02 p.m. near 7607 Greenbelt Road, a man and woman stole merchandise and fled in a tan Toyota SUV.

On January 2 at 2:26 p.m. near 6100 Greenbelt Road, a repeat offender was caught shoplifting.

On January 3 at 6:34 p.m. near 7583 Greenbelt Road, two women grabbed merchandise and fled.

Disorderly

On January 3 at 4:02 p.m. near 6000 Greenbelt Road, a woman continued to yell and be disorderly after she was told multiple times by officers to leave the premises. She was taken to the station and issued a criminal citation.

Trespassing

On December 30 at 10:39 p.m. near 6002 Breezewood Drive, a man was caught trespassing for the second time and was issued a

criminal citation.

On January 1 at 3:15 p.m. near 6062 Greenbelt Road, a previously banned man was behaving strangely; he was arrested and issued a criminal citation.

On January 1 at 9:45 p.m. near 6000 Breezewood Drive, a banned man was yelling in the hallway, and officers found him smoking crack cocaine. After a short foot chase, he was caught and taken to the station for processing.

Vandalism

On December 30 near 555 Crescent Road, graffiti was left on a dumpster at the recycling area.

Vehicle Crimes

Stolen Vehicles

Five vehicles (three of which were Lexus) were stolen: on December 31 near 6400 Cherrywood Lane, a white 2017 Lexus (Md. 9DH6241); on January 2 near Edmonston Road and Springhill Court, a white 2015 Mercedes-Benz (Md. 6GB7970); on January 3 near 166 Westway, a 2017 Lexus RX350 (Md. 8GGR4592); on January 3 near 5805 Cherrywood Lane, a 2018 Toyota Highlander (Md. 2FD6221); and on January 3 near 6640 Lake Park Drive, a white 2017 Lexus RX (Md. 8EL9583).

On January 3 near 9011 Breezewood Terrace, a vehicle was reported stolen but it had been towed.

Theft from Auto

On December 29 near 5809 Cherrywood Lane, a vehicle window was broken and items were stolen; near 9106 Edmonston Court, a front tag was stolen.

On December 30 near 6122 Breezewood Drive, a rear license plate was missing; near Market

Lane and Springhill Drive, a vehicle window was broken with a rock and items were stolen.

On December 31 near 7825 Mandan Road, all four wheels were stolen; near 9122 Springhill Lane, a Range Rover was broken into and a stolen credit card was later used at a store; near 6142 Springhill Terrace, a Honda driver's door was damaged and money was taken; near 9106 Springhill Lane, a car window was forced opened and items taken.

On January 3 at 6:33 p.m. near 6000 Greenbelt Road, a woman parked in the parking garage and when she returned, the contents of the console and glove box were scattered and her vehicle registration was missing; near 6198 Greenbelt Road, a vehicle window was broken and a purse was stolen.

Vandalism to Auto

On December 29 near 5803 Cherrywood Lane, a 2016 Honda Civic was vandalized, and a 2014 Honda Odyssey parked next to it was broken into.

On December 30 near 5809 Cherrywood Terrace, a windshield was shattered on a Ford Escape.

On January 3 near 6460 Capitol Drive, a vehicle window was smashed and the car was rummaged through.; near 8150 Lakecrest Drive, a 2021 Lexus RX had a window broken and the glove compartment was rummaged through.

On January 4 at 4:11 p.m. near 6204 Springhill Drive, when two people pulled on a vehicle's door handle, the owner activated the alarm with the key fob and they fled.

2026 Sees Two Shootings Already; NYE Gunfire Pierces GHI Homes

by Anna Bedford-Dillow

Around 12:45 a.m. on January 1, gunshots were fired in the area of University Square Apartments on Westway. According to residents, multiple shots were fired and bullets pierced the windows at two GHI homes in the 8 Court of Ridge Road. There were no injuries despite one resident being in the living room as a bullet entered and a total of three windows being shot. The shots may have been fired as part of a New Year's celebration, speculated a resident. They were possibly fired by folks intending to aim skyward. The police classified the incident as vandalism.

At approximately 6 p.m. on Monday, January 5, a non-contact shooting was reported in the 6000 block of Greenbelt

Road. There were no injuries reported. Police had a description of the suspect – a man with a beard wearing dark jeans, a coat and white hoodie. Officers were on the scene investigating Monday evening.

Several shootings over recent months have injured and even killed victims in Greenbelt, primarily occurring in the area of Franklin Park. The youngest to lose his life to gunfire in recent months was 14-year-old Carlin Bayong. In those instances, the shootings were targeted, said police.

The penetration of gunfire into neighboring homes at the start of the New Year demonstrates the danger to the community at large, even when no one is targeted.

IN THE SPIRIT OF COMMUNITY: CERAMICS IN GREENBELT, MD

A juried exhibition featuring 33 community artists and 43 of their works from the remarkable Greenbelt Community Ceramics Program. Exhibition runs from Fri., Jan 2 through Saturday Jan 24's closing reception, from 4 to 6 p.m.

Opening reception, Jan. 10, 4 to 6 p.m.

Studio Gallery, 2108 R Street, NW, Washington, D.C.

Mishkan Torah Hosts Seminar On Preventing Gun Violence

by Mary Moien and Marsha Goldberger

In November, the Mishkan Torah Synagogue Sisterhood and Social Action Committee presented a seminar on Preventing Gun Violence – What We Each Can Do. The seminar featured presentations by the Prince George's County Chapter of Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense, Johns Hopkins University Bloomberg School of Public Health Center for Gun Violence Solutions and the Washington, D.C.-area Interfaith Gun Violence Prevention Network.

Johns Hopkins Center

Joshua Horowitz of the Johns Hopkins Center for Gun Violence Solutions discussed the current state of gun violence and the impact it has on victims, their families and communities and society at large. In 2023 there were nearly 47,000 firearm deaths in the United States. Many people are not aware of the fact that nearly six out of 10 of these gun deaths are suicides.

In the Center, analysts are using objective and nonpartisan research to inform policy that leads to legislation and the implementation of practical solutions. Firearm deaths are a public health emergency. Gun deaths, including suicides, surged during the pandemic but have dropped in Maryland over the past couple of years. Horowitz feels that efforts are working and progress is being made. But he emphasized that the U.S. gun culture is a choice our society makes, one we can choose to change.

Advocacy in Maryland is making a difference. State gun laws make a big difference. Although it may seem like Maryland has a high gun death rate, the state's rate actually falls in the middle of the rest of the country. Mississippi has

the highest gun death rate and the fewest gun laws. States with more gun limitations have fewer deaths. So the death rate is not inevitable. Horowitz mentioned that there are five major ways that gun laws and other actions save lives: 1) licensure to purchase a gun, 2) firearm removal laws, 3) safe and secure storage, 4) community violence intervention and 5) limiting guns in public. Advocacy plays a role in each of these actions. For more information, visit publichealth.jhu.edu/center-for-gun-violence-solutions.

Advocacy Day in Annapolis Moms Demand Action

Maryland Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense will hold its annual Advocacy Day this year on Thursday, February 5 with the Maryland legislature. They will rally in Annapolis at Lawyer's Mall at 9 a.m. and meet with District 22 legislators from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Note that all-day attendance is not required. Cindy Nell, Prince George's County lead for Moms Demand Action said that the grassroots organization formed in 2012 after the Sandy Hook massacre. There are over 11 million volunteers nationwide (not all are moms), and it uses a multipronged approach to fight gun violence. Last year, the group had 400 people at the Advocacy Day rally in Annapolis and they hope for an even larger turnout this February 5. For more information on Advocacy Day, visit act.everytown.org/event/moms-demand-action-event/73530 or contact Nell at Nellpartyof4@gmail.com.

For the coming legislative session, Nell's group is prioritizing, among other things, the Do See VIOLENCE, page 11





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BOXED: \$11.50/column inch. Minimum 1.5 inches (\$17.25). Deadline 2 p.m. Monday for ads that need to be set up, including those needing clip art and/or borders. 6 p.m. Tuesday for camera-ready ads. Certs and Notarizations each \$10.

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WATSON continued from page 8

implemented the superintendent’s “priorities and initiatives,” according to the ethics committee letter.

In a prepared statement Tuesday, December 16, Joseph thanked Watson, whose “knowledge of our district and Maryland’s legislative landscape” helped his transition into the superintendent’s job.

“Senator Watson accepted a short-term assignment and answered the call of duty to serve our students and staff,” Joseph’s statement said. “We also recognize his greater duty – representing the people of Maryland as the elected senator for District 23 – and appreciate his continued advocacy for Prince George’s County.”

Watson was still listed on the school system’s website as an interim senior adviser to the superintendent on the afternoon of December 15, but that page had been taken down by that evening.

Deadra Daly, the legislature’s ethics counsel, is not authorized to speak publicly about specific ethics cases, but said the committee generally expects a “prompt and quick response,” after a letter is issued to a lawmaker. Some time is allotted, however, for lawmakers to make any necessary changes.

“The committee recognizes that, as a member, you’ve got to weigh your options,” Daly said. “The committee usually asks the member: ‘Hey, you need to make a decision, and we’re going to follow up in a couple weeks.’ The committee is not going to say: ‘You got my letter today. Clean out your office in five minutes.’”

There are some exceptions in state law, allowing certain lawmakers to hold secondary jobs with state or local governments, Daly said. For example, lawmakers who held a government job before they filed for election are allowed to keep such positions.

Additionally, lawmakers may work as “a nonelected law enforcement officer or a fire or rescue squad worker” without needing approval from the ethics committee, according to the state ethics guide.

The committee can also grant exemptions for teaching positions, for “human services” positions such as social worker, and for positions that are subject to a standardized “merit system hiring process,” according to the ethics guide. The panel can also approve logical promotions or career changes for elected officials who held their government job before their election.

“A member should contact the Ethics Committee before accepting employment that requires an exemption,” reads the guide.

Handling lawmakers’ secondary jobs, said Daly, is “always a balancing act.”

“We’re a citizen legislature, and we think that’s helpful because we think people have real-world experience they can apply, and we can get better work product.”

But problems arise when legislators could benefit from holding a particular job and being a member of the General Assembly at the same time, according to Daly. “When we look at local governments, the General Assembly provides substantial funding, the General Assembly makes decisions on bills that would impact them,” Daly said. “There is that inherent tension, and those government entities are substantially reliant on the goodwill of the General Assembly.”

[Editor’s Note: Watkin’s resignation from his county employment comes as State Senator C. Anthony Muse (D-Prince George’s) is fighting to keep his \$180,000-a-year job in the Prince George’s County’s procurement office despite the Joint Committee on Legislative Ethics finding it unlawful.]

Christine Condon covers state politics with a focus on environmental and energy issues for Maryland Matters. William J. Ford has reported for more than 25 years on local, county and state politics. This article was originally published in Maryland Matters: marylandmatters.org/2025/12/16/ron-watson-prince-georges-school-job. It is republished under Creative Commons license CC BY-NC-ND 4.0.

BREAKFAST continued from page 7

& Go breakfast programs allow them to “have a better sense of well-being and provide necessary nutrients to fuel [their] minds for school.” Research shared by the USDA shows that eating breakfast at school results in fewer visits to the school nurse, encourages healthy eating habits and maintains a healthy weight. The program saves parents about \$35 a month for each child, Ford

said. This is a significant benefit, especially for low-income families suffering from food insecurity.

Marilyn Phan is a student at ERHS writing for the Raider Review where this article first appeared.



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VIOLENCE continued from page 9

It Yourself Machine Gun Bill. Currently, a small piece can be purchased and used to change a regular gun into a machine gun. This new law would outlaw that change. California has already passed such a law and it is under discussion in Illinois. The group is also working to elect people who support sane gun laws.

Nell also recommends that parents ask the parents of their children’s friends whether they have guns in their houses and whether they are kept secure. Moms Demand Action is part of Everytown for Gun Safety. Visit everytown.org for more information.

Interfaith Network

Chris Files represented the Interfaith Gun Violence Prevention Network, of which Mishkan Torah and other D.C.-area religious organizations are members. She stated that a current focus of the network is on gun culture, including gun stores and gun shows. This network has produced a Tool Kit that serves as a practical, helpful guide to educate, engage and activate faith organizations and individuals in reducing gun violence. The Interfaith Network’s Tool Kit can be found at paxchristimdc.org/Interfaith-GVP-Toolkit.

Marc Neveu checks the News Review’s digital edition while navigating on a scientific expedition in the Weddell Sea, Antarctica.

PHOTO COURTESY MARC NEVEU

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ARTISTS continued from page 1

Washington, D.C., reaches out each January to groups who do not normally show in venues like theirs. Corson told the gallery about the incredible community ceramics program in Greenbelt and asked if they'd consider an exhibit of some of the great pieces created by Greenbelt residents, for whom ceramics is a passion but not a profession. Says Corson, "I am so happy that the world will see how remarkable the Greenbelt community program is."

It is significant that this is a juried event, said Julie Boynton, one of the participants, who submitted several pieces for consideration in the show of which one was selected. She is excited to be part of the exclusive show and to receive feedback on her work from someone who is not a family member or friend. Another Greenbelt ceramicist, Lola Skolnik agreed. "It's an honor to be included," said Skolnik. Corson helped guide the Greenbelt ceramicists who wished to apply to the show, helping them submit professional photos of their pieces. Juror and Curator Mary Welch Higgins did a great job, says Boynton. Higgins will give a Juror/Curator talk during the

opening reception this weekend. The Greenbelt exhibit will run until January 24 and ceramicists will have the opportunity to share their work with the public. Though some of the pieces will be for sale, "this is not necessarily about selling for many of the artists, it is about being selected and included in a real gallery show," Boynton told the News Review. The experience of walking through the gallery and being alongside so many great pieces is really meaningful for her.

The show's Opening Reception is on Saturday, January 10, from 4 to 6 p.m. The Juror/Curator's talk by Higgins will be at 4:30 p.m. All are welcome to visit the Studio Gallery at 2108 R St. NW, Washington, D.C., which is open Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays from 1 to 6 p.m. and Saturdays 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. One can see all the pieces included in the Greenbelt show on the gallery's website at studiogallerydc.com/in-the-spirit-of-community-ceramics-in-greenbelt-md-catalogue.

Lola Skolnik and Julie Boynton assisted with the preparation of this article.



The works of Greenbelt ceramicists are displayed in Studio Gallery's premier exhibit space.

- Photos by Chris Corson



The back room of the New Deal Café was packed with New Year's Eve revelers enjoying food, lively music by the Proverbs Reggae Band and a mounting excitement as midnight approached.

GIVES continued from page 1

laundry, letter writing, reading, minor home repairs, pet sitting, sewing and mending, shopping and errands, telephone reassurance, visiting, gardening and yard work, light housework, respite care, meal preparation and delivery, closet cleaning, and packing and moving help.

Award for Excellence

In 1998 the Maryland Municipal League gave GIVES its Award for Excellence, recognizing the quality and variety of services offered. Its organizational structure was cited as being a model that could be replicated in other cities. Greenbelt beat 15 other municipalities with a population of 10,000 and above to win the honor.

Then-city manager Michael McLaughlin described GIVES "as an example of Greenbelt residents working together to ensure that their neighbors' quality of life does not diminish when they are elderly or disabled." He added, "Advantages of this program are a fostering of independence [and a] promoting of camaraderie and community spirit."

Changes Along the Way

GIVES began with a board of directors and an advisory board, both with members drawn from residents from all over the city; city, county and state elected officials; city employees; city organizations; and local churches. There is no longer an advisory board.

At first volunteers staffed the office for two hours each weekday morning but that expanded to the current practice of four hours, from 10 a.m. to noon and 1 to 3 p.m. each weekday.

Services offered were gradually eliminated when there weren't people who had the skills or the availability to provide them. Covid finally ended other services because GIVES stopped sending volunteers into people's homes, said Carol Drees, president at the time. Throughout its history the greatest demand is for rides to appointments and to do errands. Current services also include friendly visits, to allow the principal caregiver time away, and occasionally pet care.

"The intergenerationality has been the hardest thing to achieve," Davis said. With adult supervision, children and teens raked leaves for GIVES members, including Brownies and fathers and teachers with students from Eleanor Roosevelt High School and eighth graders from the former St. Hugh of Grenoble Catholic School. The students earned community service credits. This was a way to fulfill the intergenerational aspect of GIVES, although there were never enough volunteers to fulfill all the raking requests and the service has not been offered recently.

Volunteers

Former GIVES president Jean Cook said in the 50+ years she's lived here she has been grateful that Greenbelt residents reach out to each other, "and I'm grateful for that now for me, since I no longer drive."

A challenge in any volunteer organization is having people step up when something needs doing. Just ask Cook, president for 11 years. One day when Drees was in the office, Cook asked her if she would take over as president. When Drees declined, "I got on my knees and said, 'oh please oh please oh please, we have to keep



2003 Labor Day Festival Parade participants, are, from left: banner carriers, Audrey Barnett, Ruth Huggins, Pearl Siegel, John Taylor and Jean Lombardo. In the parade Ed Schramko (at far left) brings up the rear on his bicycle decorated as a minor home repair, a service GIVES offered at the time.



Members of the Junior Civitans at ERHS and teacher Richard Carrington prepare to rake leaves for GIVES members in 1998.

this going." Cook said. While the term was for two years, Drees agreed to serve for one and recruited Carol Shaw as vice president, to take over as president the following year.

Cook, Drees and Shaw became aware of a UM program which would assign business students to evaluate a program for a semester. At the time finding a volunteer meant a time-consuming process of telephoning volunteers until one agreed to fulfill the service request. The business student report said the organization had to get online or it would die. Then-city manager Nicole Ard made the connection to the Jewish Council for the Aging (JCA) which had a grant to assist senior villages, and GIVES qualified. Shaw said JCA "provides marketing assistance, the software for scheduling and training for drivers." The training covers legal liability, ethics and how to treat people with special needs, Shaw said.

City Support

The city provides office space, insurance, internet access and

equipment, including a telephone, computer and printer. This support means that members pay no dues and nothing for services, unlike similar programs in neighboring cities.

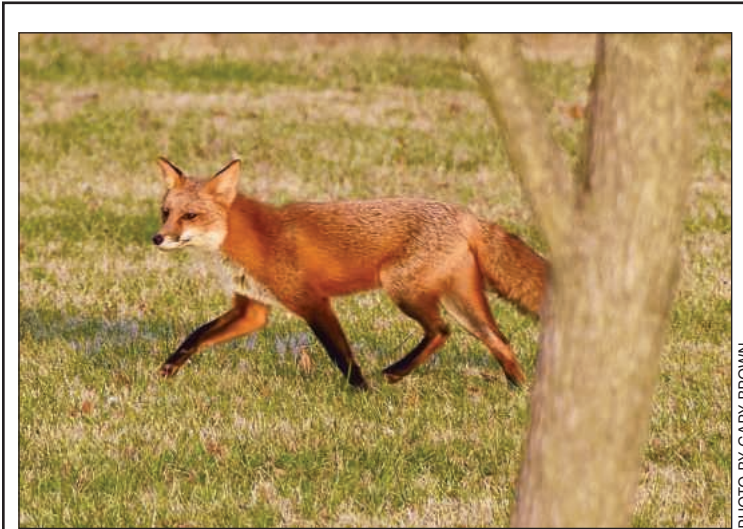
Other financial support comes from donations, in-kind contributions, grants and fundraising.

Community Involvement

GIVES volunteers staff booths at the Labor Day Festival Information Day, and in some years have participated in the parade. GIVES also participated in the Healing Hands commemoration of 9/11 held in Roosevelt Center in 2005, sponsored by Greenbelt Interfaith Leadership Association.

GIVES has sponsored AARP's 55 Alive driving classes and also a CPR class. For over 10 years, until Covid, GIVES coordinated AARP's tax preparation assistance in Greenbelt. That service will begin again during 2026.

It was a long birth process and there have been adaptations along the way, but GIVES still serves Greenbelt well.



A fox strolls through Buddy Attick Park on Sunday, January 4.

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